Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 02609 190939Z ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RO US OVIP (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE) SUBJ: CEAUSESCU HOMECOMING REACTIONS

REF: USUN NEW YORK 01488

- 1. ON DESCENDING FROM PLANE AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY APRIL 18, PRESIDENT AND MRS. CEAUSESCU GREETED MY WIFE AND ME (THIRD IN LINE BEHIND PRIME MINISTER MANESCU AND PARTY SECRETARY BOBU AND WIVES) MUCH MORE WARMLY THAN ON DEPARTURE. PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO OUR GREETING WITH COMMENT THAT VISIT HAD BEEN A VERY GOOD ONE. WHVOE#CEAUSESCUS WENT ROUND ASSEMBLED CROWD, MADAME MANESCU SAID VISIT HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL; SHE NOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S FRANKNESS AND DIRECTNESS HAD BEEN APPRECIATED; I REPLIED THAT THIS REFLECTED GOOD STATE OF OUR RELATIONS. ON WALK BACK (WITH PRIME MINISTER) TO AIRPORT BETWEEN PHALANXES OF GREETERS, PRESIDENT REPEATED THAT VISIT HAD GONE VERY WELL INDEED, AND SHOULD PERMIT US TO MOVE ON TO DO MANY MORE THINGS TOGETHER. I SAID IT WAS MY HOPE IT HAD RAISED RELATIONS TO A NEW LEVEL.
- 2. FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPREA, OVERHEARD IN RECEIVING LINE WITH FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VERDET, TOLD LATTER TRIP HAD BEEN "LOVELY," AND SEEMED GENERALLY EBULLIENT. IN FINAL CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF STATE PROTOCOL DIRECTOR ECOBESCU AS CARS PULLED OUT, I CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BUCHAR 02609 190939Z

SAID I HOPED THAT EXCEPT FOR HYMN MIXUP ARRANGEMENTS HAD GONE WELL, AND HE REPLIED "EXCEPT FOR HYMN AND FOR NEW YORK," WHERE DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN DISCONCERTING; HE WAS ONLY THANKFUL FOR CONTAINMENT MEASURES U.S. SIDE HAD TAKEN. HOWEVER, CEAUSESCU HIMSELF REFLECTED NO UNHAPPINESS IN COMMENTS TO ME. SIMONS

Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014
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